THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) No, Sir. This survey was done by the Railways.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) It was *inter alia* stated that survey for extension of rail line up to Kodinar via Somnath has also been completed and the survey report is under examination in consultation with the Zonal Railway. Further consideration of the project would be possible once results of the survey have been finalised.

(d) This work is not yet sanctioned.

(e) The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 130.36 crores.

Appointment of LDCs In CCMB

4405. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU :

SHRI V.P. DURAISAMY :

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that CCMB, Hyderabad flouted reservation rules while appointing candidates to the post of Lower Division Clerks in 1986;

(b) whether it is a fact that post of LDCs reserved for ex-servicemen have been dereserved and a candidate who did not belong to reserved category and who was overaged, has have appointed;

(c) whether any complaint has been received from any Member of Parliament in this regard; and

(d) if answer to Part (a) above be in the affirmative, whether Government would institute an enquiry and set right the anomaly causes to ex-servicemen?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) and (b) No Sir. No appointment to the grade of Lower Division Clerks (LDCs) was made by CCMB by direct recruitment in 1986.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Import of Chemicals and Bio-Chemicals at CBT

4406. SHRI C.O. POULOSE : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) has initiated a National Facility for importing Chemicals and Bio-chemicals at Centre for Bio-

chemical Technology (CBT), a constituent establishment of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR);

(b) if so, the quantity and the cost (in dollars) of the Chemicals and Bio-Chemicals imported for the last five years, year-wise; and

(c) the service charge rendered by CBT against each dollar for the last five years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) Yes Sir. The national facility for import and distribution of fine chemicals was established at Centre for Biochemicals (now known as Centre for Biochemical Technology) in April, 1987 under an MoU between Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and CSIR with the objective 'to ensure that fine chemicals and biochemicals required in biological research are made available expeditiously through centralised import and distribution network'.

(b) Various quantitative measures are used for different biochemicals which cannot be aggregated; the value of imported biochemicals in last five years is given in the table below :

Value in US Dollars

Category	Year 1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
Molecular biologicals	65,674	60,832	64,683	95,284	52,949
Separation products	40,832	46,157	38,229	19,538	18,532
Cell culture products	54.252	20,277	34,611	10,821	10,590
Organic biochemicals	45,401	12,807	22,128	24,347	21,180
General biochemicals	39,404	94,449	76,882	77,550	66,187
biochemicals for newer areas of R&D e.g. genomics etc.	39,976	32,284	47,094	73,041	95,309
Total value US $	2,85,539	2,66,806	2,83,627	3,00,581	2,64,747

(c) The facility distributes the chemicals at the catalogue price of the supplier. Thus without levying any service charge on the user, the facility is able to recover its operating expenses from the discount it secures from the suppliers due to bulk imports.